

# NEWS FROM THE PLEASANT GROVE PEWS

MARCH 2026

## The Lion and the Lamb

You know what they say about March — it comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. And this year we'll end the month — and Lent — with the Lamb of God. We hope you'll be here with us throughout this Lenten season as we move toward Holy Week and the victory of Easter.

This month Pastor Paul Klepees shares thoughts on how Lent prepares us for the weight of the cross and its responsibilities. Read more on page 2.

Also on page 2, learn how we're fighting hunger in our corner of Callaway County. We're going to Fill The Cart this month with canned goods for the food pantry and our Feed The Children ministry.

In February Pleasant Grove parishioners gathered for a mid-month potluck and an update on the state of the church. If you missed it, we have the recap for you that starts on page 6.

Associate Pastor Macy Storts has eyes on the cross this month as well. She writes that it's a gift to "deny ourselves and take up our cross." Find out what she means on page 9.

NextGen Minister Kris O'Neal is reveling in the Lenten season as a time to realign our hearts with God's direction. Read more

on page 11.

You may have noticed the very full calendar on page 5. So remember to set your clocks forward to Daylight Saving Time on Sunday, March 8 — you don't want to miss anything! Get the details on those events — and some future adventures — in the announcements on page 13. You'll find more news from the pews on page 14.

We have lots of photos this month! Check out the flowery forte of Women's Ministries volunteers on page 16, the card sharks who competed in the first annual Pitch tournament on pages 18-21, and the Limitless candy caper on pages 23-25. All that February fun was for a good cause — raising funds to send kids to summer camp.

Outreach opportunities abound during Lent. See what's available on page 29. And don't forget to check the schedule of Holy Week activities on page 30.

As always, dear reader, you are the reason for *News from the Pleasant Grove Pews*. Share your news, events, photos and suggestions with Kathy Casteel at [kcasteel@ktis.net](mailto:kcasteel@ktis.net) and Betsy Bell at [mammabell003@gmail.com](mailto:mammabell003@gmail.com). We can't wait to hear from you!

### PLEASANT GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3686 State Road E  
Auxvasse, MO 65231  
Office: 573-387-4822  
[MyPGUMC.org](http://MyPGUMC.org)

*Our Mission: To know Jesus Christ  
and to make Him known.*

#### PASTOR

Paul Klepees  
[pastor@mypgumc.org](mailto:pastor@mypgumc.org)

#### PASTOR OF CARE & CONNECTION

Macy Storts  
[macy@mypgumc.org](mailto:macy@mypgumc.org)

#### NEXTGEN MINISTER

Kris O'Neal  
[nextgen@mypgumc.org](mailto:nextgen@mypgumc.org)

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Nancy Linville  
[admin@mypgumc.org](mailto:admin@mypgumc.org)

For prayer requests, our Prayer Tree  
number is 573-597-2102,  
email [macy@mypgumc.org](mailto:macy@mypgumc.org).  
For announcements or Information  
Tree: [nalinville.church@gmail.com](mailto:nalinville.church@gmail.com).



*News from the Pleasant Grove Pews*  
is published monthly by Pleasant Grove  
United Methodist Church.

©2026 All rights reserved.

# THE PASTOR'S PEACE



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT FRONT: SPENCER, PAUL, GIBSON BACK: MARGIE, EZRA, AND MAVERICK KLEPEES

## The Weight of the Cross

BY PASTOR PAUL KLEPEES

By the time we reach the middle of Lent, the journey starts to feel real. The ashes are long gone. The novelty of giving up something may have worn off. And still, Jesus calls: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)

That verse has never been easy. And it’s not meant to be. If we’re honest, we’d rather it wasn’t printed in the text. We sometimes pick through the language, hoping to soften what Jesus actually says. But the cross isn’t a metaphor for inconvenience; it’s a symbol of sacrifice, surrender and love.

Jesus doesn’t ask us to carry it once. He says, “daily.”

Lent invites us to name what weighs us down — and more importantly, to ask what we’re clinging to that keeps us from following fully. Sometimes it’s comfort. Sometimes it’s control. Sometimes it’s fear. But the cross keeps asking the same question:

**WHOEVER WANTS TO BE MY DISCIPLE MUST DENY THEMSELVES AND TAKE UP THEIR CROSS DAILY AND FOLLOW ME. FOR WHOEVER WANTS TO SAVE THEIR LIFE WILL LOSE IT, BUT WHOEVER LOSES THEIR LIFE FOR ME WILL SAVE IT.**

LUKE 9:23-24

What are you willing to lay down so you can live more fully in Christ?

The good news is this: The cross is not the end. It is the road that leads us to resurrection. In a culture that values winning, Lent reminds us that it’s in losing our life for Christ’s sake that we actually find it (Luke 9:24).

So in these mid-Lenten days, don’t rush past the weight. Let it teach you. Let it shape you. Let it draw you closer to the One who carried it first, and who carries it still, with and for us.

Grace and peace for the journey ...

# FILL THE CART

VEGGIE TALES

Here’s a health tip you can sink your teeth into: eat your veggies! Essential to a balanced diet, vegetables are packed with vital nutrients that keep us healthy. Veggies are also great items to donate to food pantries — especially canned varieties, which last the longest on shelves.

In March, Pleasant Grove will Fill The Cart with canned vegetables to benefit the church’s food pantry and its Feed The Children ministry. Pleasant Grove is a mobile site of the SERVE food pantry. Our partnership with SERVE helps distribute food to any family in Callaway County who needs help filling their pantries. We distribute food boxes on the third Thursday of every month from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the church basement. This month’s distribution occurs on March 19. Anyone who needs food is welcome; just stop by and register that day to start participating in the food pantry at Pleasant Grove.

Each week during the school year, our Feed The Children ministry provides weekend food packs to 42 children at Hatton-McCredie Elementary School as a supplement to Buddy Packs. The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri provides Buddy Packs to eligible area school children with food for a two-day weekend. Since North Callaway schools are on a four-day school week with a three-day weekend, Feed The Children supplies that extra day of weekend food for Hatton-McCredie students who need it.

Any Fill The Cart donations in excess of Pleasant Grove’s local needs will be sent to SERVE.

**ON THE ROAD AGAIN**

**JOIN US THIS SPRING IN**

**PELLA,  
IOWA**

Experience a little slice of  
Holland amid a big show  
of tulip blooms in this  
picturesque Dutch town.

**April 21-24**

Contact Jan Hankinson for  
more information.  
573-999-2139



# Coffee with Sisters in Faith

Saturday, March 7

8:30-10 am

at Pleasant Grove



# CALENDAR & EVENTS

March 2026

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

<p>WORSHIP 9 A.M. &amp; 11 A.M.</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 A.M.</p> <p>CONFIRMATION CLASS 4 P.M.</p> <p>YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6:30-8:30 P.M.</p>	1	<p>PGUMC STAFF MEETING 9 A.M.</p>	2	<p>WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M.</p> <p>CUB SCOUTS PACK 32 6 P.M.</p>	3	<p>KFJ 6-8 P.M.</p> <p>LIMITLESS 7-8:30 P.M.</p>	4	<p>MEN'S GROUP 7 P.M.</p>	5	6	<p>COFFEE WITH SISTERS IN FAITH 8:30-10 A.M.</p>	7
<p>WORSHIP 9 A.M. &amp; 11 A.M.</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 A.M.</p> <p>CONFIRMATION CLASS 4 P.M.</p> <p>YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6:30-8:30 P.M.</p>	8	<p>PGUMC STAFF MEETING 9 A.M.</p>	9	<p>WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M.</p> <p>COMMUNICATIONS TEAM 11 A.M.</p> <p>CUB SCOUTS PACK 32 6 P.M.</p> <p>NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE 7 P.M.</p>	10	<p>L.I.F.T. 6-8 P.M.</p> <p>QUILT GROUP 7 P.M.</p>	11	12	13	14	<p>CHURCH CLEANUP DAY 10 A.M.</p>	
<p>WORSHIP 9 A.M. &amp; 11 A.M.</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 A.M.</p> <p>CONFIRMATION CLASS 4 P.M.</p> <p>YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6:30-8:30 P.M.</p>	15	<p>PGUMC STAFF MEETING 9 A.M.</p>	16	<p>WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M.</p> <p>CUB SCOUTS PACK 32 6 P.M.</p>	17	<p>KFJ 6-8 P.M.</p> <p>LIMITLESS 7-8:30 P.M.</p>	18	<p>BABY GRACE PICKUP 11 A.M.-2 P.M.</p> <p>SERVE FOOD BOX PICKUP 11 A.M.-2 P.M.</p> <p>COMMUNITY LUNCH 12 NOON</p> <p>MEN'S GROUP 7 P.M.</p>	19	20	21	
<p>WORSHIP 9 A.M. &amp; 11 A.M.</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 A.M.</p> <p>CONFIRMATION CLASS 4 P.M.</p> <p>YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6:30-8:30 P.M.</p>	22	<p>PGUMC STAFF MEETING 9 A.M.</p>	23	<p>WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M.</p> <p>CUB SCOUTS PACK 32 6 P.M.</p> <p>BOARD MEETING 7 P.M.</p>	24	<p>KFJ 6-8 P.M.</p> <p>LIMITLESS 7-8:30 P.M.</p>	25	26	27	28		
<p>PALM SUNDAY DAILY VIDEO DEVOTIONAL 8 A.M.</p> <p>WORSHIP 9 A.M. &amp; 11 A.M.</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:10 A.M.</p> <p>CONFIRMATION CLASS 4 P.M.</p> <p>YOUTH BIBLE STUDY 6:30-8:30 P.M.</p>	29	<p>HOLY WEEK DAILY VIDEO DEVOTIONAL 8 A.M.</p> <p>PGUMC STAFF MEETING 9 A.M.</p>	30	<p>HOLY WEEK DAILY VIDEO DEVOTIONAL 8 A.M.</p> <p>WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:30 A.M.</p> <p>CUB SCOUTS PACK 32 6 P.M.</p>	31							



# The State of Pleasant Grove

*Where we have been, where we are, where God is leading us next.*

BY PASTOR PAUL KLEPEES

We recently gathered for a town hall to reflect on the state of Pleasant Grove — past, present and future.

We began with gratitude. Pleasant Grove has always been a faithful church. That faithfulness has carried us through seasons of change, uncertainty and growth.

In 2025, Pleasant Grove connected with 497 individuals representing 153 families. Our average worship attendance was 172.02, and our 2026 year-to-date average is 172.83. Each week, hundreds more engage through our online worship presence. These numbers are not about comparison or competition — they are evidence of consistent engagement and steady participation.

Financially, Pleasant Grove remains strong. We are debt-free, financially stable and positioned to invest in ministry. Giving continues to reflect faithful stewardship, averaging approximately \$23 per attendee per week. That steady generosity sustains worship, discipleship, outreach and leadership development.

Our children and youth ministries continue to show life and momentum. At the same time, ministries like On The Road Again have strengthened connection among our senior adults and now even include partnership with neighboring congregations. From the youngest to the most seasoned among us, Pleasant Grove is a multigenerational church.

With growth comes responsibility. Our facilities are aging, and we must think carefully about how our spaces support the future God is preparing. The question before us is not whether God is moving. The question is whether we will step forward faithfully.

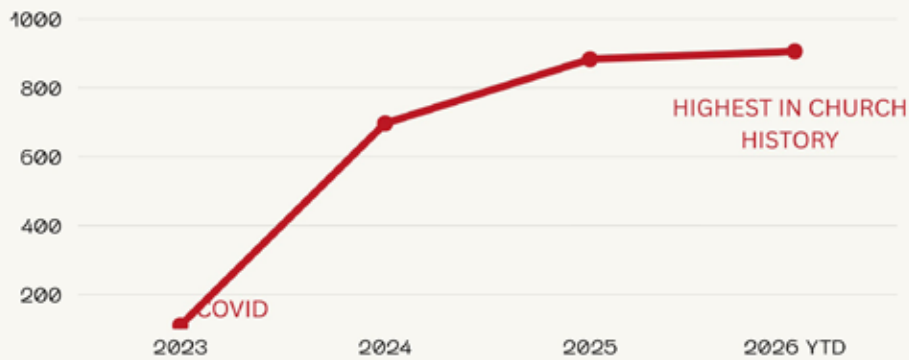
Our focus moving forward is clear: deepen discipleship, strengthen hospitality, develop new leaders and prepare our facilities for the next season of ministry.

I believe with complete confidence that God is not finished with Pleasant Grove. What we are seeing is not accidental. It is the fruit of faithfulness. And I am grateful to serve alongside you in this season.

The future of Pleasant Grove is strong.



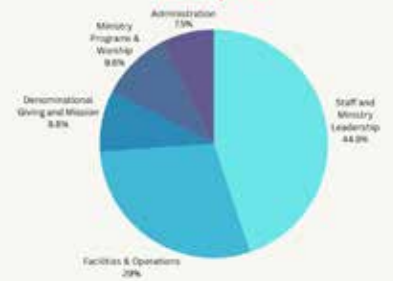
## ONLINE WORSHIP REACH



Online worship is now one of the primary ways people first connect with Pleasant Grove.

## 2026 BUDGET

\$285,313



## FINANCIAL POSITION

- Debt: \$0
- Cash reserves: \$61,000
- Second-mile giving: \$66,804 in 2025

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE TREND (2019-2026)



## A Clarification

At the Feb. 15 State of Pleasant Grove update, I shared several metrics that reflect where we have been and where we are headed. After that meeting, we discovered a data entry error in our attendance reporting. I want to correct that clearly and directly.

Our actual average worship attendance for 2025 was **172.02**, and our 2026 year-to-date average is **172.83**. The previously reported numbers were higher due to a reporting mistake, and that is on us to clarify. Transparency matters. Accuracy matters. Trust matters.

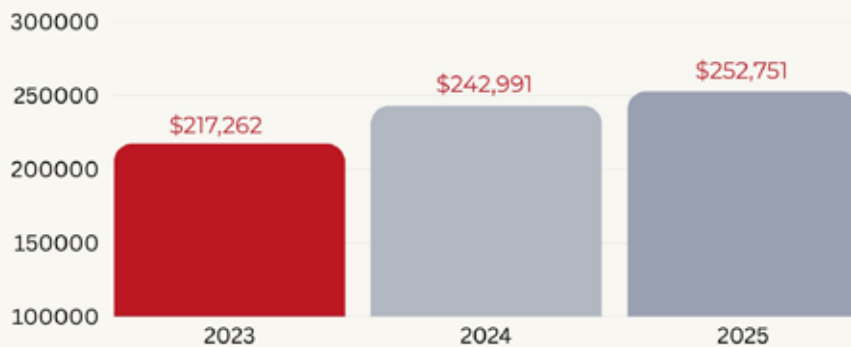
Here is what also matters.

An average weekly worship attendance of 172 people in a rural United Methodist congregation is still strong. It represents steady engagement, faithful participation and a congregation that gathers consistently.

I remain deeply confident in what God is doing here. The corrected numbers do not diminish that confidence. They simply ensure we are stewarding our information as carefully as we steward our mission.

Thank you for your continued trust and faithfulness.

## FINANCIAL FAITHFULNESS



2026 YTD is ahead of last year's pace



# **PLEASANT GROVE MEN'S GROUP**

JOIN US ON THURSDAYS AT  
**PLEASANT GROVE**

3686 STATE ROAD E  
AUXVASSE, MO

**MARCH 5 & 19**  
7 P.M.

CODY JONES

573-826-0926

BRANDON CRAWFORD

573-220-5347

**CONNECT WITH US!**

[MYPGUMC.ORG](http://MYPGUMC.ORG)

[FACEBOOK.COM/PGUMCHATTON](https://www.facebook.com/PGUMCHATTON)

[FACEBOOK.COM/LIMITLESS](https://www.facebook.com/LIMITLESS)

[INSTAGRAM.COM/MYPGUMC](https://www.instagram.com/MYPGUMC)

[MYPGUMC.ORG/YOUTUBE](https://www.youtube.com/MYPGUMC)



## The PG App



Powered by Ministry One



KALEB AND MACY STORTS WITH BOONE

## THREADS OF CARE

### Following Jesus with Intention

BY ASSOCIATE PASTOR MACY STORTS

The month of March seems to be a transitional month. The weather tries to get warmer, the days are a little longer, and the season of Lent is underway. In the midst of this season, Jesus asks his followers not to just sit back and admire Him, but to follow Him.

Jesus' words remind us that discipleship is not always easy. To "take up our cross" means being willing to set aside our own comfort, our own plans or preferences and fears in order to live as Christ calls us to live.

Yet this call is also a gift. In following Jesus, we discover a deeper purpose and a life shaped by grace, love and hope!

Do you know the best part of this call to "deny ourselves and take up our cross?" We don't do it alone! As siblings in Christ, we support one another in times of struggle and joy — in despair and in renewal. Whether through a kind word, a helping hand, or a shared prayer, we reflect Christ's love by walking alongside one another — with intention, as we follow Christ into this season of Lent.

**THEN JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, "WHOEVER WANTS TO BE MY DISCIPLE MUST DENY THEMSELVES AND TAKE UP THEIR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME."**

# SERVE and Baby Grace

*Pleasant Grove is a mobile site for SERVE food pantry and Baby Grace.*

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH, 11 A.M. - 2 P.M.**

(We are open every third Thursday of the month.)

If you are in need of a food box from SERVE, please stop by! You can register that day and participate in the food pantry.


The Baby Grace store offers free diapers, wipes and gently used or new clothing for ages birth through 5 years.

---

## COMMUNITY LUNCH

The Discipleship Sunday School class invites you to join us for a homemade meal. Stay for a game of cards, dominoes, or bring a suggestion!

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19TH, 12 NOON**



**KIDS FOR JESUS**  
FOR KIDS 3 YEARS OLD TO 5TH GRADE

EVERY WEDNESDAY  
(EXCEPT THE SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH)

6-8 P.M.  
DINNER PROVIDED



YOUTH GROUP FOR 6TH TO 12TH GRADERS

EVERY WEDNESDAY  
7-8:30  
DINNER PROVIDED

*Limitless Bible Study*

EVERY SUNDAY  
6:30-8:30 P.M.  
DINNER PROVIDED



## Living with Intention

BY NEXTGEN MINISTER KRIS O'NEAL

As we step into March, we enter the season of Lent — a time that invites us to slow down, refocus and live with deeper purpose.

Lent is not merely about giving up something; it is about making space — space to examine our priorities and to realign our hearts with God's direction for our lives. Scripture reminds us that God is actively at work, faithfully completing what He has started in us. That truth is both comforting and clarifying. Our lives are not drifting aimlessly; they are being shaped by a steady and purposeful hand.

We all make plans — practice schedules, tournaments, vacations, academic goals. None of those are wrong. But Lent invites us to ask a deeper question: What truly shapes my calendar? What reflects my deepest commitments? It is easy for good things to crowd out the most important things.

One powerful example of living with purpose is what we are seeing with summer camp. This July, we are taking 100 students to camp — more than double what we had just two years ago. In the past, some families had other priorities and couldn't adjust plans. This year, many have intentionally made camp a priority because they have heard from others how meaningful and transformative that week can be. When students encounter Christ in real life-changing ways, word spreads. Purpose becomes contagious.

Choosing camp is not just choosing a trip. It is choosing spiritual investment. It is saying that growth in faith deserves space on the calendar.

This Lent, may we not only remove distractions but also lean into what matters most, trusting that God is shaping our students — and us — with intention.

**MANY ARE THE PLANS IN A PERSON'S HEART, BUT IT IS THE LORD'S PURPOSE THAT PREVAILS.**



**CENTRAL METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

**CONTACT:**  
**KRIS O'NEAL**  
[NextGen@mypgumc.org](mailto:NextGen@mypgumc.org)  
417-718-4772

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **Mingling with Men's Group**

The Pleasant Grove Men's Group will meet on Thursdays this month, March 5 and 19, at 7 p.m. at the church. Get updates on all Men's Group activities with a group text from leaders Cody Jones and Brandon Crawford. Connect with Cody at 573-826-0926 or Brandon at 573-220-5347.

## **Coffee Break**

Cindy Feutz will host this month's Coffee with Sisters in Faith from 8:30 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 7, at Pleasant Grove. For more information about Sisters in Faith, contact Angie Raebel at 573-416-6438 or email [Plote.hogan@gmail.com](mailto:Plote.hogan@gmail.com).

## **Feed Spirit & Soul**

Wednesday night is youth night at Pleasant Grove — a busy, noisy, joyful time. All that activity makes a kid hungry! Pleasant Grove provides dinner at every Wednesday night meeting of Kids For Jesus and Limitless youth group. If you'd like to help out with those meals, visit the link at [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C084AADA929A5FFC16-62307829-kfyouth](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C084AADA929A5FFC16-62307829-kfyouth).

## **Girls' Night Out Loud**

Women's Ministries is planning a spring outing for Girls' Night Out Loud, featuring Christian music artists Hope Darst and Jon Reddick, on Friday, May 8, at Calvary Church in St. Peters. The one-of-a-kind night of worship and fun begins at 7 p.m.; doors open at 6. Tickets are about \$37 and go on sale March 3; they should sell out quickly. If interested in going with the group, contact Cindy Feutz at 573-473-6316 by Sunday, March 1.

## **Dutch Treat**

The On the Road Again gang travels to Pella, Iowa, for a spring visit April 21-24. Come enjoy acres of tulips and experience the culture of the city founded by Dutch immigrants. The itinerary includes a traditional Dutch dinner at Central College, a chocolate tasting event and a visit to Wyatt Earp's childhood home, plus greenhouse tours, a cheese house, museums and historical sites, windmills and tulips, of course. Cost ranges from \$225 to \$440 per person, depending on room occupancy; reserve your spot with a \$100 deposit by Sunday, March 1.

Handouts with trip details are in the church office. Contact Jan Hankinson at 573-999-2139, email [janhankinson@gmail.com](mailto:janhankinson@gmail.com), for more information.



## **Church Cleanup Day**

It's spring cleaning time, so let's all get together on Saturday, March 14, to spiff up the church before Easter. Cleanup starts at 10 a.m. It'll be fun!

## **A Spiritual Lift**

Ladies In Faith Together (L.I.F.T.) will continue their discussion this month of what it means to grow in spiritual maturity. They'll get together on Wednesday, March 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Pleasant Grove. For more information, contact Sarah Peck at 573-808-2324 or email [cspeck428@gmail.com](mailto:cspeck428@gmail.com).

## **Yoga Break**

Tuesday morning yoga is on hiatus this month. Class will resume April 7 at 8 a.m. in the gym.



# MORE NEWS FROM THE PEWS

## LIGHT A CANDLE



A Memory Candle now burns each Sunday during services as a tribute to lost loved ones and the saints who have gone before us. If you'd like to honor someone in this way, sign up in the church office.

## CONFIRMATION JOURNEY BEGINS

Confirmation classes are underway at Pleasant Grove. Taught by Pastor Paul Klepees, the class of students — from fifth graders to high school seniors — meets every Sunday, 4 to 6 p.m., through March 29, Palm Sunday. Dinner is provided at 6 p.m. In the class, students learn the foundations of the Christian faith and explore what it means to follow Jesus. Those who complete the class will be confirmed on Easter Sunday, April 5.

## A STUDY IN STRENGTH



The Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study de-stresses every week with a new chapter from their current study book, *Strength in the Struggle*, a Biblical how-to on letting go of fear and anxiety. All women are welcome — it's not too late to join the discussion! The group meets every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

## CAMP IS COMING!

Pleasant Grove has filled its 100 reserved spots for UNITE camp this summer and NextGen Minister Kris O'Neal is now collecting names for a waiting list.

"It's important to get on the wait list in case some who made the original list have to back out," Kris says. To join the waiting list, contact Kris at 417-718-4772 or email [nextgen@mypgumc.org](mailto:nextgen@mypgumc.org).

UNITE camp runs July 20-24 at Central Methodist University in Fayette. Adult volunteers are welcome to join in the fun! We are looking for chaperones for the group as well as people interested in teaching a breakout session to campers — whatever your expertise. See Kris O'Neal or Paul Klepees if interested in volunteering.



**Let's get ready for Easter!**  
**March 14th at 10 am**  
**Church Cleanup Day**

# Special Delivery

Women's Ministries volunteers met smiles at every stop while delivering 166 Valentine's Day flower orders for Allen's Flowers in February. The florist pays the group for the service and the money raised goes to fund Women's Ministries projects. The annual event raised \$1,494, which will go toward camp scholarships.

"We had a good time," says Women's Ministries Coordinator Cindy Feutz. "People are happy to see you and we are so blessed that Sandra Ferguson of Allen's florists invites us each year for this fun activity that also raises money for camp scholarships!"

The crew will be at it again in May, delivering flowers and smiles for Allen's to celebrate Mother's Day. Contact Cindy at 573-473-6316 or email [cfeutz53@gmail.com](mailto:cfeutz53@gmail.com) to get in on the fun.



# WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

PAPER PEONY PRESS



# Strength IN THE Struggle

A BIBLE STUDY WORKBOOK  
FOR WOMEN ON LETTING GO  
OF FEAR AND ANXIETY

LAUREN IBACH

**9:30 A.M. TUESDAYS  
AT PLEASANT GROVE**

# PITCHING IN

The Pleasant Grove Men's Group hosted our first-ever 10-Pitch Tournament in February, raising more than \$4,000 to help send kids to UNITE camp this summer. "No one quite knew what to expect," says Pastor Paul Klepees. "What we got was laughter, competition, fellowship and a whole lot of generosity."

The tournament attracted 56 players and onlookers. "If you walked through the building that evening, you saw tables set up, cards flying, people leaning forward in their chairs studying hands like their lives depended on it," recalls Pastor Paul. "You heard friendly trash talk — and the occasional dollar going in a swear jar. And you felt something that matters deeply in a church: community."

The Nightriders team of Gayle English and Aaron Bell won the tournament trophy, but the big winners of the evening were the students who will hear the gospel in a new way this summer, kids who will sit around a campfire, sing worship songs they'll remember for years, and maybe sense God calling them deeper. There are already plans afoot to repeat next year as an annual event.

To everyone who played, organized, donated, served food, or simply showed up — thank you! You made a difference that will echo far beyond one tournament.











*Thank you,  
Pleasant  
Grove!*



***Your generous gifts have  
helped Limitless youth raise  
funds for camp this summer.***

# Sweet TREATS

The sweet aromas of caramel and chocolate wafted through the Pleasant Grove basement on a February Wednesday as Limitless youth group hustled to fill orders for their Valentine treat boxes. The fundraising effort yielded \$2,691.30 for summer camp costs.

Some youth wandered into the Country Friends Quilt Group meeting and joined in a game of “Strip Left, Right, Center” — or as they preferred to call it, “Strip Poker.”







# **L.I.F.T.**

**LADIES IN FAITH TOGETHER**

**PLEASE JOIN US  
AT PLEASANT GROVE**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11  
6-8 P.M.**

**SARAH PECK**  
**CSPECK428@GMAIL.COM**  
**573-808-2324**

# MOMS DO YOU NEED DIAPERS?

PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH IN HATTON WANTS TO HELP.  
THAT IS WHY WE JOINED THE BABY GRACE MINISTRY.



What we offer:

# FREE

Gently used or new clothing for newborn to 5 years old  
Diapers  
Baby Wipes

Other items, as available:

Strollers  
Highchairs  
Car Seats  
Shampoo/Body Wash

We are located at  
3686 State Road E  
Auxvasse, MO 65231  
Come to our church  
every 3rd Thursday  
each month  
11 A.M. - 2 P.M.  
or schedule an appointment  
by calling 573-387-4822.

*We are here to live out  
God's call to be of  
service to others*



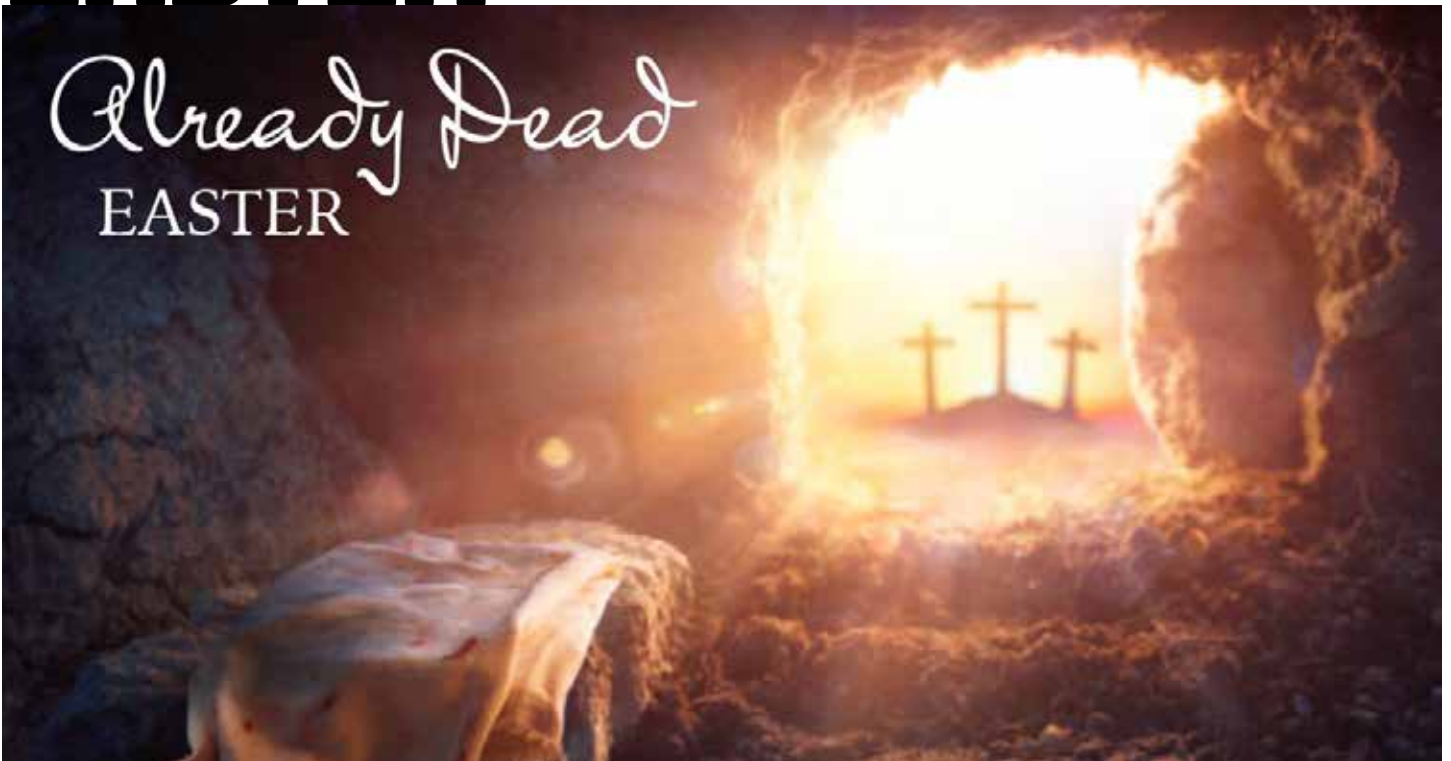
**JOIN US FOR NEW SERMON SERIES**

# **LENT**



**THE SEVEN WOES LENT 2026**

# **EASTER**



*Already Dead*  
**EASTER**

# OUTREACH PLANS

## Journey Through Holy Week With Us

Pleasant Grove will observe Holy Week with the following events.

### **Sunday, March 29–Saturday, April 4:**

Daily video devotion at 8 a.m.; watch online on Facebook, our YouTube channel and the church website, [www.MyPGUMC.org](http://www.MyPGUMC.org).

### **Palm Sunday, March 29:**

Pleasant Grove worship, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Prairie Chapel worship, 10 a.m.

### **Maundy Thursday, April 2:**

Prairie Chapel worship, 6 p.m.

Pleasant Grove potluck dinner & worship, 6:30 p.m. in the gym

### **Prayer Vigil, April 2-3:**

24-hour prayer vigil from 7 p.m. Thursday to 7 p.m.

Friday. Sign up for your 30-minute slot at church; pray anywhere.

### **Good Friday, April 3:**

Prairie Chapel worship, 6 p.m.

Pleasant Grove worship, 7:30 p.m.

### **Easter Sunday April 5:**

Pleasant Grove, 7 a.m. modern service in the gym

Pleasant Grove, 8 a.m. egg hunt & continental breakfast

Pleasant Grove, 9 a.m. traditional service in sanctuary

Prairie Chapel, 10:30 a.m. service

## Sign Up to Serve

Looking for a way to become more involved in Pleasant Grove's services? Find your niche with one of these Sunday volunteer opportunities:

- Door opener/greeter
- Scripture reader
- Greeter to hand out the bulletins
- Substitute teachers for Sunday School
- Nursery workers for the 9 a.m. service and Sunday School

Clipboards with signup sheets are hanging on the wall (at the back of the gym in early service and on the east wall of the sanctuary in the late service) or check in with Nancy Linville at the church office.

## Rule #1: Do No Harm

Learn how John Wesley's first general rule — Do No Harm — calls Christians to pay attention to the ways our choices, habits and silence can affect our neighbors. A free Zoom class will explore how this rule opens the door to stronger Christian witness. The class is online Monday, March 23, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Registration closes Sunday, March 15. Sign up at <https://missouri-reg.brtapp.com/NCDoNoHarm2026>.

## BLESSINGS

**BRING THE WHOLE TITHE  
INTO THE STOREHOUSE  
... AND SEE IF I WILL NOT  
THROW OPEN THE FLOOD-  
GATES OF HEAVEN AND POUR  
OUT SO MUCH BLESSING  
THERE WILL NOT BE ROOM  
ENOUGH TO STORE IT.**

MALACHI 3:10

Join us in our mission to know Jesus Christ and make Him known. Your generosity enables us to help more and more people experience a life-changing relationship with Him. We are truly grateful for your donations and hope the convenience and simplicity of our ways of giving are helpful to you.

1. Try scanning our QR code.



2. To use mobile giving, download the "Church By Ministry One" app to your mobile device. Search for Pleasant Grove by entering the zip code 65231.
3. Online giving can be found at [www.mypgumc.org/donate](http://www.mypgumc.org/donate).
4. Text "GIVE" to 573-312-2909.
5. Cash and checks can be placed in the offering plates during worship services or mailed to the church office at 3686 State Road E, Auxvasse, MO 65231.

Consider becoming a recurring giver. Church statistics show that churches with high numbers of recurring givers experience the most growth.

If you need assistance or have questions about our digital giving methods, please reach out to Kayla O'Neal in the church office Monday through Thursday, by phone at 573-387-4822 or email [admin@mypgumc.org](mailto:admin@mypgumc.org).

# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE FOR 2026

## SUNDAY, MARCH 29

### PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP

Pleasant Grove worship, 9 A.M. & 11 A.M.  
Prairie Chapel worship, 10 A.M.

## SUNDAY-SATURDAY

Daily Video Devotion at 8 A.M.

## THURSDAY, APRIL 2

### MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP

Prairie Chapel 6:00 P.M. Maundy Thursday Worship  
Pleasant Grove 6:30 P.M. Potluck Dinner Worship

## FRIDAY, APRIL 3

### GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

Prairie Chapel 6:00 P.M.  
Pleasant Grove 7:30 P.M.

## SUNDAY APRIL 5

### EASTER WORSHIP

Pleasant Grove  
7 A.M. Modern Worship in Gym  
9 A.M. Traditional Worship in Sanctuary  
Prairie Chapel  
10:30 A.M. Service

